The Tangi Times

The Newspaper of Tangipahoa, St. Helena, and Eastern Livingston Parishes

MONDAY MOJO EDITION

44th Year, No. 80 | Monday, August 18, 2025 | ONE DOLLAR

Five Arrested in Hammond Underage Drinking Bust

Tangi Times Report

On the morning of August 8, 2025, the Hammond Police Department (HPD) began investigating a potential missing person incident, after clothing and personal effects were discovered on a sidewalk along East Charles Street and North Holly Street in downtown Hammond. The items belonged to Richard Clementi, 18 years old, of Slidell.

Clementi was located sleeping in the sanctuary of the First Christian Church on East Charles Street. Clementi stated to HPD detectives that he had been drinking with friends at The Brown Door Bar, located at 124 North Cate Street, the previous night.

When questioned about his acquisition of the alcohol, he stated that had been able to purchase drinks directly from bar staff.

Detectives followed up on Clementi's statement and executed a search warrant at The Brown Door, where they located video footage from the previous night. While reviewing the video footage, detectives observed many sales of alcohol to people apparently under 21 years of age throughout the night.

Further investigation confirmed a total of 116 sales of alcoholic beverages to persons under 21 years of age within a three-hour time span.

In Louisiana, it is illegal for anyone under 21 years of age to purchase or publicly possess alcoholic beverages (with certain exceptions). It is also illegal for anyone to sell alcoholic beverages to anyone under 21. Further, it is illegal for someone to purchase alcoholic beverages on behalf of someone under 21.

During HPD's investigation, all three of these laws were found to have been violated in the Brown Door on the night of focus.

Here are excerpts from LA RS:93.11-13:

RS:93.11. Unlawful sales to persons under twenty-one

A. Unlawful sales to persons under twenty-one is the selling or otherwise delivering for value of any alcoholic beverage to any person under twenty-one years of age unless such person is the lawful owner or lawful employee of an establishment to which the sale is being made and is accepting such delivery pursuant to such ownership or employment. Lack of knowledge of the person's age shall not be a defense.

See FIVE ARRESTED on Page 4

New Orleans Mayor and Paramour Indicted by Feds

**Data source: U.S. Attorney – Eastern District of LA*

Tangi Times Report

LaToya Cantrell, the California transplant who is darkening the City of New Orleans in her second term as its mayor, has thumbed her nose at the New Orleans City Council, the citizens of New Orleans, and even the feds for years, as she operated at her own selfish pleasure with callous disregard for the welfare of the city she is supposed to serve as a public official.

Overwhelmingly unpopular for her apathetic performance as mayor, Cantrell has earned a slew of unflattering nicknames, including "LaToya the Destroya," "LaToilet," and "the world's most worthless mayor." For decades, New Orleans has been known as "The City that Care Forgot." Since her inauguration on May 7, 2018, it would be more appropriately known as "The City that the Mayor Forgot."

On Friday, the karma bus came in hot as Cantrell and her boyfriend, Jeffrey Vappie, were

indicted by the U.S. Attorney of the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Acting U.S. Attorney Michael M. Simpson announced in a press conference at 2:45pm on Friday, August 15, 2025, that LaToya Cantrell, 53, and Jeffrey Paul Vappie, 52, both residents of New Orleans, were charged in a superseding indictment on federal charges concerning wire fraud and obstruction of justice.

The 48-page federal indictment included 18 counts in total for the dimwitted duo, who have spent years gallivanting around the world on the nickel of New Orleans taxpayers. Despite repeated requests, instructions, and even censures by the New Orleans City Council to rein in Cantrell's reckless spending and exorbitant travels, the Democratic mayor invariably prioritized her luxurious lifestyle over her responsibility to the citizens of New Orleans.

Cantrell and Vappie were both charged in a conspiracy to commit wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 371, as well as a conspiracy to obstruct justice, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(k). Vappie is also charged with twelve counts of wire fraud, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343, and Cantrell is charged in six of those wire fraud counts.

Vappie is charged with making a false statement to the FBI, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1001. Cantrell is charged in one count of obstruction of justice, in violation

See INDICTED, Page 4

Today is National Fajita Day!

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The Tangi Times

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MEME MOJO

Teacher: Use "I" in a sentence

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Me: I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.

Teacher: 😳

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I'm not saying that I'm old, but when I was in school, we used to make ashtrays for our parents in art class.

Just Saying

The Tangi Times

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PALINDROME du jour

Amore, Roma!

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Back in My Day

By Burl "Two-Toes" Jenkins

Back in my day, if you wanted to talk to someone on the phone, you had to hope they were home, awake, and not in the middle of "Murder, She Wrote." The phone was plugged into the wall with a curly cord that could tangle itself tighter than a gator in a fishnet, and if you wanted privacy, you had to stretch it into the hallway closet until the cord was long enough to trip the dog.

We didn't have smartphones with "apps" — we had brains, which, admittedly, were slower to load and prone to forgetting why you went into the kitchen. If you wanted to share a picture, you took it on a camera, dropped the film off at the drugstore, and waited a week to see if your thumb had made another surprise cameo.

Social media? That was just called "talking to people." If you had news, you picked up the phone, went next door, or yelled across the street. If you wanted to "follow" someone, you'd have to actually walk behind them — which, for the record, will get you talked about faster than any Facebook post.

And we didn't "swipe right" to meet people. You had to be introduced in person, usually at church or the Piggly Wiggly, and your compatibility was determined by whether you both liked peach cobbler and if you could two-step without stepping on each other's toes.

Kids today have a whole universe in their pockets, but back in my day, if you wanted to be entertained, you had to make your own fun — and by "fun," I mean tying a string to a June bug and letting it fly around like a tiny buzzing kite. Now that's what I call an interactive experience.

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Safety Tip of the Day

GAS STATION SAFETY

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Miller Receives Friend of VVA Award

Several members of the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 1052 from Tangipahoa Parish recently attended the state VVA convention in Kinder, Louisiana. Several chapters and individuals were honored during the awards ceremony.

Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller was honored with the "Friend of the VVA Award" for his support, dedication, friendship, and availability to VVA Chapter 1052. The prestigious award was presented to President Miller by VVA Chapter 1052 President Pete Jones at Tuesday night's regular chapter meeting.

President Miller accepted the award on behalf of all the outstanding, hardworking, dedicated employees of Tangipahoa Parish Government.

Seated: Mac McKeen, Virgil Woodard, Tommy Joyner, Richard Mayeaux, and Herman Eady. 2nd Row: Michael Wronkoski, Nick Joseph, Pete Jones, Robby Miller, Phillip LeCompte, and Ike Turnage. 3rd Row: Alvin Williams, Joe Patti, Hollis Seals. 4th Row: Donald Baham, Tom Munster, Henry Morgan, Donald Hebert, and Jewel Byrd.

President Pete Jones (left) presents the Friend of VVA Award to Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller.

Tangi Gumbo

A little bit of everything you need to know

LABI's Louisiana Free Enterprise Institute, in partnership with the Livingston, St. Tammany, and Tangipahoa Chambers of Commerce, will host a Leadership Bootcamp on Friday, August 22, 2025, from 9:00am to 4:00pm at the Shell Robert Training & Conference Center, 23260 Shell Lane, Robert, LA. The free, nonpartisan training is designed to equip pro-business leaders with the tools to launch and run effective campaigns, offering valuable insights for those considering a run for public office or already on the ballot. While there is no fee to attend, registration is required at www.labi.org/events.

Christopher Williams, 16, pleaded guilty Monday to second-degree murder and two counts of attempted second-degree murder in the September 2023 shooting at St. Helena College & Career Academy that killed classmate Vernon "V.J." Gordon Jr. and injured two others. Sentenced to "juvenile life," Williams will remain incarcerated until age 21. Gordon, 16, was shot seven times and died at the scene, with his parents remembering him as an honor roll student, athlete, and "good kid" with a bright future. The family has filed a civil lawsuit against the St. Helena Parish School Board and Superintendent Kelli Joseph, alleging inadequate campus security; Joseph declined to comment citing pending litigation.

A new $5.4 million federally funded drinking water filtration system is being installed in the Madisonville area to benefit over 10,000 residents and businesses by removing iron and manganese, which cause discolored water, from wells serving subdivisions along Highway 1085 and Bootlegger Road. Expected to be completed by early 2026, the project is part of President Cooper and the Parish Council's ongoing efforts to improve water and sewer infrastructure throughout St. Tammany Parish. Residents may experience temporary water discoloration in the coming days due to contractor work rerouting water lines this past weekend.

The Tangipahoa Chamber will host a members-only luncheon with U.S. Congresswoman Julia Letlow on Monday, August 18, at the Shell Robert Training & Conference Center, offering attendees an opportunity to hear firsthand from Louisiana's 5th District representative on key legislative issues and initiatives impacting the region. Seating is limited for this special event, and early registration is encouraged at www.tangipahoa.org.

Ponchatoula Celebrates Veterans has announced that The Victory Belles will perform at its celebration on Saturday, November 1, in honor of all who have served. Organizers say the event is shaping up to be an amazing tribute, and they extend special thanks to Southern Podiatry Clinic LLC and Army National Guard veteran Dr. David Allen for sponsoring The Victory Belles' performance.

Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill has filed a lawsuit against Roblox, one of the world's largest online gaming platforms, alleging it exposes children to sexually explicit content and fails to protect them from predators. Calling the lack of safeguards "disturbing" and likening the platform to "open season for sex predators," Murrill claims Roblox lacks adequate parental monitoring tools, has loose account restrictions, and prioritizes user engagement over safety. With roughly half of its 380 million active players under age 16, Murrill is seeking a full shutdown of the site, citing violations of state law and a harmful environment for young users.

North Oaks Rehabilitation Hospital is hosting "Unmasking Brain Injury" throughout August—a powerful art installation developed by the national Unmasking Brain Injury organization to raise awareness. The free exhibit is located in the main lobby of North Oaks Rehabilitation Hospital at 1900 S. Morrison Blvd. in Hammond. It is open to the public during hospital visiting hours from 8 am to 8:30 pm daily.

The traveling art exhibit's stop in Hammond is made possible in partnership with the Brain Injury Association of Louisiana, which serves as Unmasking Brain Injury's official state partner. The exhibit's mission is to amplify the voices of individuals living with brain injuries, educating the public about the challenges and resilience involved in enduring and living with these often-invisible injuries.

Behind every mask is a deeply personal story told by a brain injury survivor. Each mask represents the artist's unique journey, with an accompanying narrative offering insight into their life before and after their injury. Some masks feature QR codes; when scanned with a smartphone, the code will link to a brief video of the artist sharing the story behind his or her mask. This storytelling approach helps visitors grasp the invisible nature of brain injuries and the strength required to overcome them.

The Unmasking Brain Injury art exhibit has traveled continuously across Louisiana since 2017. Currently, the collection features 120 masks with more in progress.

Heading into the last half of August, Tangipahoa Parish President Robby Miller says the parish's Phase 2025 overlay program is more than halfway complete.

"We estimate we're approximately 60-65 percent complete with this year's overlay program," Miller said. "We've been blessed with good weather, and the crews from Barriere Construction are doing a good job of working around any of the afternoon thunderstorms that we've experienced in recent weeks."

During the week of August 18, crews are scheduled to work in the following areas:

Shoulder Dressing: Gemstone, Chemekette, Jaelyn, Frank, South I-12 Service Road, Whiskey Lane, New Genessee, Arbordale, Old Covington, Chappapeela, Holly Drive, Woodstone, Oak Hollow, Mandella, Perry, and West Martin Luther King;

Paving: South Lewiston, North Peckerwood, and Duncan Avenue;

Soil Cement: Baytown Hills, Company Town, Brown Road (Village of Tangipahoa), and Johnson Holton Road.

All work is weather-permitting, and motorists can expect intermittent delays in construction zones.

In addition to the Phase 2025 road work, Miller reminds motorists that a portion of Floyd Lavigne Road will be closed approximately 500 feet from the intersection of South Thibodeaux Road on Monday, August 18. Crews will be completing a cross drain project, and the roadway will closed from approximately 9am until 2pm. No traffic will be allowed through the work zone.

Op-Ed

Submitted to The Tangi Times

Trump Is a World Peacemaker, United Nations Is a Disgrace

By Jeff Crouere

The major force for peace in the world today is not the United Nations (UN), it is President Donald Trump. In his four and a half years as President, he has accomplished more to end wars and save lives than the organization that is supposedly "the world's best hope for peace."

In his first term, President Trump negotiated the Abraham Accords, which established diplomatic relations between Israel and four Arab nations: Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates. He also negotiated an "economic normalization deal" between Serbia and Kosovo, two hostile nations.

In his second term, the President has been a peace dynamo, ending many brewing international conflicts. The list includes Rwanda and Congo, India and Pakistan, Cambodia, and Thailand, and, most recently, Armenia and Azerbaijan. With his decisive military action against the nuclear capabilities of Iran, Trump negotiated a ceasefire to their "Twelve Day War" with Israel.

These conflicts were solved by Trump, not the UN, an organization with the primary mission of maintaining "international peace and security." Unfortunately, the UN is mostly known for corruption, anti-Semitism, and pursuing woke agendas such as climate change and diversity.

This disastrous agenda prompted the United States to officially withdraw from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in July. According to State Department Spokesperson Tammy Bruce, the decision was made due to UNESCO's "divisive social and cultural causes," such as their "outsized focus" on the "UN's Sustainable Development Goals," and their "globalist, ideological agenda for international development." Bruce claimed that these goals were "at odds with our America First foreign policy."

Not surprisingly, UNESCO endorsed membership for the "State of Palestine," which "is highly problematic, contrary to U.S. policy, and contributed to the proliferation of anti-Israel rhetoric within the organization," said Bruce.

UN representatives do not just spew "anti-Israel rhetoric," they are also engaged in violence against Israelis. Several officials with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) were fired after being accused of participating in the Hamas terror attack against Israel on October 7, 2023, which was "the worst massacre of Jews since the Holocaust." It led the United States to withdraw funding from the organization.

As noted by Australian journalist Josh Feldman, the UN is "morally bankrupt" and has suffered from "years of institutional decay and corruption." For example, Feldman cited the case of Emma Reilly, a UN Human Rights Officer, who complained that the names of "Uyghur and other Chinese dissidents," who were scheduled to address the UN Human Rights Council, were divulged to the communist government of China, leading to government reprisals against their families still living there.

With such a shameful history, the United States should demand that the UN exit their headquarters in New York City and withdraw all funding. Since their 1945 founding, the United States has been the UN's largest contributor. Today, the United States funds approximately 25% of the overall budget of the UN, a total of $13 billion per year.

While the UN continues to focus on a disturbing agenda, President Trump is doing yeoman's work to establish a more peaceful world. In addition to the significant peace agreements he has achieved, Trump is committed to ending the war in Ukraine. On Friday, he will be attending a high stakes meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Alaska.

Trump, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and Special Envoy Steve Witkoff have been involved in numerous discussions with Russian and

(See OP-ED Page 5)

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FIVE ARRESTED

Continued from Page 1

B. Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not less than five hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or imprisoned for not less than thirty days nor more than six months, or both.

RS14:93.12. Purchase and public possession of alcoholic beverages; exceptions; penalties

It is unlawful for any person under twenty-one years of age to purchase or have public possession of any alcoholic beverage.

B.(1) Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than one hundred dollars.

RS14:93.13. Unlawful purchase of alcoholic beverages by persons on behalf of persons under twenty-one

A. It is unlawful for any person, other than a parent, spouse, or legal guardian, as specified in R.S. 14:93.10(2)(a)(ii), to purchase on behalf of a person under twenty-one years of age any alcoholic beverage.

B.(1) Whoever violates the provisions of this Section shall be fined not more than five hundred dollars or imprisoned for not more than thirty days, or both.

In addition to the above penalties, the driver's license of any person violating the provisions of this Section may be suspended upon conviction, plea of guilty, or nolo contendere for a period of one hundred eighty days.

As a result of the investigation, the following arrests were made:

Bartender Sydney Elise Mitchell, 20 years old of Gulfport, Mississippi, was arrested and charged with 115 counts of LRS 14:93.11 – Unlawful sales to persons under twenty-one, as well as 1 count of LRS 14:105 – Letting a disorderly place.

Bartender Michael Samuel Cuccia, 22 years old of Mandeville, was arrested and charged with 1 count of LRS 14:93.11 – Unlawful sales to persons under twenty-one, as well as 1 count of LA RS 14:105 – Letting a disorderly place.

Tristan Michael Stravinsky, 21 years old of Slidell, was arrested for 10 counts of LRS 14:93.13 – Unlawful purchase of alcoholic beverages for persons under 21; video footage showed Stravinsky purchasing alcoholic beverages for others under the age of 21.

Owner of The Brown Door, Patrick Lynn Broussard, 57 years old of Port Allen, was issued a misdemeanor summons for LRS 14:105 – Letting a disorderly place.

Richard Kale Clementi, 18 years old of Slidell, was issued a misdemeanor summons for LRS 14:93.12 – Unlawful purchase and public possession of alcoholic beverages for persons under 21.

HPD additionally notified the Louisiana Office of Alcohol and Tobacco Control (ATC) of this investigation; additional administrative action is possible.

The Hammond Police Department reminds everyone that the minimum legal age to purchase and responsibly consume alcohol is 21 years old. In the coming weeks and months, HPD will have additional officers assigned downtown and will be taking aggressive enforcement actions against bars and other establishments that sell alcohol to persons under 21 years of age, as well as against patrons who consume alcohol under the age of 21.

INDICTED

Continued from Page 1

of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1512(c)(1), and two counts of making a false declaration before a grand jury, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1623.

According to the allegations contained in the superseding indictment, while Cantrell was Mayor of New Orleans and Vappie was a New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) officer and member of her executive protection team, the pair developed a personal, intimate relationship as early as October of 2021. From that time until Vappie's retirement in June 2024, they embarked on a scheme to defraud the City of New Orleans and NOPD by exploiting Vappie's job and Cantrell's authority as Mayor to have the City and NOPD pay Vappie's salary and expenses during times that he claimed to be on duty but when he was actually engaged in personal activities, often with Cantrell.

To perpetuate their continued fraud, they used a secure messaging platform, WhatsApp, to exchange over 15,000 messages, pictures, and audio clips in an eight-month period. They intimidated subordinates, harassed a citizen, lied to colleagues and associates, deleted evidence, made false statements to FBI agents, gave the grand jury an affidavit signed under oath and penalty of perjury that contained numerous false statements, and, ultimately, they committed perjury before a federal grand jury, all for the purpose of distracting and impeding inquiries and investigations, including a federal grand jury investigation.

Cantrell and Vappie perpetuated their scheme both in New Orleans and during out-of-state trips. In both instances, Vappie's activities while claiming to be on duty were conspicuously different than any other member of the Executive Protection Unit (EPU). While in New Orleans, they treated a city-owned apartment in the Pontalba as their personal, shared residence and coordinated to spend time together there, engaging in personal activities, while Vappie claimed to be on duty for EPU and was paid to be doing his job. Cantrell occasionally canceled scheduled work events to facilitate personal and intimate interactions with Vappie in the Pontalba apartment.

The superseding indictment also alleges that Cantrell and Vappie arranged for Vappie to accompany Cantrell on at least 14 domestic and international trips to maximize their time together and engage in personal activities. In their private text messages, Cantrell characterized trips with Vappie as "times when we are truly alone" and what "spoils me the most."

In total, the City of New Orleans paid over $70,000 for Vappie's travel on these trips.

The superseding indictment alleges that both Vappie and Cantrell were aware their conduct broke criminal laws. For instance, in April 2022, an associate told Cantrell explicitly in multiple text messages that spending public funds and using public resources for her personal relationship was a "felony."

As alleged in the superseding indictment, in July 2023, the grand jury issued subpoenas to both Vappie and Cantrell compelling the production of records. During an FBI interview, Vappie lied about the nature and circumstances of his relationship.

In response to the subpoena, Cantrell produced a selection of responsive records, but none of the over 15,000 WhatsApp messages she exchanged with Vappie. Cantrell also created an affidavit, sworn under oath, that she had activated a feature that automatically deleted messages in 2021, and she submitted a screen shot of her iPhone, showing that WhatsApp messages were set to delete in 24 hours.

In fact, Cantrell did not turn on that feature until December 26, 2022, roughly one month after the news media began speculating on her conduct, Vappie conducted online searches concerning WhatsApp and its security level, and by which time several people had warned Vappie and Cantrell that their conduct was illegal. This "disappearing messages" feature, moreover, only applied to new messages.

During roughly this same period, Cantrell also manually deleted thousands of her prior WhatsApp messages with Vappie. Even at the time Cantrell responded to the grand jury subpoena, she still possessed more than 50 pictures, including screen shots of correspondence with Vappie, that were responsive to the subpoena, but which she nevertheless concealed from the grand jury.

The pattern of obstruction continued through the rest of 2023 and 2024. Cantrell also displayed a pattern of retaliation against anyone who interfered with her amorous objectives.

Penalties related to the various charges range from five to twenty years for each charge, along with substantial monetary fines.

Legal and Public Notices

Gary Stanga, Clerk of Court - List of jurors to serve a term beginning August 26, 2025

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ZAHN I, BRENNAN LANDON
ZERINGUE, JOYCE E

Juror Count: 202
Cost of notice:$ 102.50

Tangipahoa Parish
Convention & Visitors Bureau

Board Meeting Agenda
Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Input

Approval of Minutes
July minutes

Treasurer's Report
July Financial Reports

Director's Report
SLU Athletics
A Night in Little Italy – September 13, 2025
Independence Italian Cultural Museum Grant
Twin Steeples "Magic of Nocturne" – October 4, 2025
Auction Items
TPCVB vehicle

Old Business

New Business

Adjournment

Tangipahoa Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau's
Board of Director's Regular Month Meeting will be held
Wednesday, August 20, 2025 at 12 o'clock NOON
At the Tangipahoa Parish Convention & Visitors Bureau,
13143 Wardline Road, Hammond, LA 70401
Cost of notice:$ 16.80

MELISSA M. STILLEY
SUPERINTENDENT

TOM TOLAR
BOARD PRESIDENT

NOTICE

DEADLINE: AUGUST 20 , 2025

The Tangipahoa Parish School System (TPSS) is now accepting applications for the following:

POSITION: Assistant Principal (9.75 Months)

SALARY: $55,212 - $79,372
Based on degree and verified years of relevant experience

LOCATION: Independence Leadership Academy
Independence, LA

CRITERIA: Must have on or before the advertised deadline, a valid Louisiana teaching certificate with one or more of the following credentials:
- Valid Type A or Level 3 Louisiana Teaching Certificate with certification as Principal; OR
- Educational Leader Level 1 or Level 2; OR
- Educational Leader Eligibility letter issued from the Louisiana Department of Education; OR
- Out of State Principal certificate, Level 1 (OSP1) or Level 2 (OSP2); OR
- Out of State (OSP1 or OSP2) Principal Eligibility letter issued from the Louisiana Department of Education

UPDATED diplomas, certificates, and other supporting documentation must be submitted with the application.

A rubric will be used to evaluate your application, so please be sure to submit all required information.

Applications for this position will only be accepted through the Frontline Recruit and Hire website: www.applitrack.com/Tangischools/onlineapp/. Paper applications and/or email scanned attachment(s) will not be accepted or processed for consideration.

Submit your application through the Frontline Recruit and Hire portal before the deadline of **August 20, 2025,** even if a previous paper application is on file with TPSS Human Resources. Previous paper or email applications will not be considered.

IMPORTANT: Please be advised that all applicants who apply for this position should check their email account daily, **including their SPAM folder**, for communications regarding this advertisement.

The Tangipahoa Parish School System is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, sex, age, national origin, or disability.

DATE ADVERTISEMENT POSTED: AUGUST 6, 2025

Publish: August 8,11,13,15,18 & 20
Cost of notice:$ 31.50

TANGIPAHOA PARISH
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59656 PULESTON ROAD AMITE, LA 70422 P: 985 748 7153 F: 985 748 8587 TANGISCHOOLS.ORG

NOTICE

22ND JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT FOR THE PARISH OF TANGIPAHOA
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PROBATE DOCKET NO. 20240030424

DIVISION "E"
IN THE MATTER OF THE SUCCESSION OF
JOHNNY RAY BRIDGES A/K/A JOHNNY RAE BRIDGES
FILED:_____

_____
DEPUTY CLERK

NOTICE IS GIVEN that Randal Lee Bridges, the duly appointed Administrator of the SUCCESSION OF JOHNNY RAY BRIDGES, a/k/a JOHNNY RAE BRIDGES is applying for authority to sell, at private sale, immovable and property owned by the estate and described as follows:

IMMOVABLE PROPERTY:
COB 1109, PAGE 761

ONE ACRE of land lying west of State Highway No. 1050 and being in the eastern portion of Section 52, T2S, R7E, Tangipahoa Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:
From the intersection of West right of way of said highway and South line of said Section 52, measure North 25 degrees West along said highway right of way, 2,104.4 feet to point of beginning; thence South 65 degrees West 208.7 feet; thence North 25 degrees West 208.7 feet; thence North 65 degrees East 208.75 feet to highway right of way of point 292.0 feet South 25 degrees East from center of State Highway No. 1049; thence South 25 degrees East 208.7 feet along highway right of way to point of beginning, as per survey of O.C. Hollister, dated January 21, 1977. Being the same property acquired by Kenneth Ray Bridges and Evelyn Rushing Bridges per COB 614, Page 438.

MOVABLE PROPERTY:

1997 Ford F-150 VIN: 1FTDX1766VNA22446

An order authorizing Randal Lee Bridges, the Administrator of the Succession of Johnny Rat Bridges a/k/a Johnny Rae Bridges to do so may be issued after ten days from the date of last publication of this notice. An opposition to the application may be filed within 7 days of the last date of publication pursuant to La. C. C. P. 3282.

By Order of the 21st Judicial District Court
In and for Tangipahoa Parish
Cost of notice:$ 75.92

Job Opening
Truck Driver

Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1 of Tangipahoa Parish is accepting applications for a qualified Truck Driver. This position involves the responsibility for operating trucks and performing work as it relates in the construction and maintenance of drainage works. Qualifications are: must have one year of responsible experience in a construction and maintenance field which involved training and some practical experience in the operation of light equipment. Must possess a valid Class A CDL license. Performs other duties as assigned.
Starting Salary Range – Per approved Pay Plan.
Applications are available at the office of Consolidated Gravity Drainage District #1, 48571 Highway 51 North, Tickfaw, LA between the hours of 6:30 am and 2:30 pm, Monday through Friday, and online at www.tangipahoadrainage.org. Submit application online or hand deliver to office.
Application deadline: August 26, 2025
Applications received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Publish: August 15, 2025, August 18, 2025, and August 20, 2025
Cost of notice:$ 12.00

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SLITHERY THINGS

So misunderstood!

By Kevin Hood
Louisiana Snake ID

Should Invasive Species Get a Pass Because They're Cute and Furry?

I'm sure you've heard about the invasive pythons taking over native wildlife in the Florida Everglades, apple snails decimating entire aquatic ecosystems, Asian carp wiping out food sources in our rivers, nutria causing erosion in our wetlands, and even feral hogs destroying everything they encounter, but the biggest culprit is actually something most people wouldn't suspect. You may be surprised to learn that cats are one of, if not the most destructive invasive species wreaking havoc on native ecosystems all over the United States.

The pythons in Florida are a result of damage from Hurricane Andrew AND people intentionally letting their pets go when they became too large and expensive to care for. Sadly, Florida just happens to have the perfect climate for them to thrive.

Apple Snails, from South America, were introduced as a popular aquarium pet. Aquarium dumping is a major factor in their spread along with flooding, movement by wildlife, and attaching to plants that move in the water.

Many people enjoy exotic pets for years; however, irresponsible pet owners have caused many invasive species to establish uncontrolled populations.

Wild boars were introduced by European settlers as a food and sport hunting source. Due to some escaping, some being released, and those crossbreeding with domesticated pigs, a major problem now plagues much of the U.S.

Nutria, also from South America, were brought to the US as part of the fur trade in the 1800s. As the fur trade declined, many were released into the wild, and they spread farther and farther with each hurricane.

Asian carp were introduced from Southeast Asia for agriculture and algae control, but accidental flooding and releases have spread them across the Mississippi River basin.

Then there are the cats. Although cats don't have a specific native range, they can at least be traced back to the ancient Middle East (Egypt, Isreal, Jordan, Lebanon).

Why are these introductions into the United States such a problem? Since they are not native here, there are no natural predators to regulate their populations. This allows them to take over and dominate whatever area they are in.

Let me preface this by saying that, not only are we pro-snake, but we are also vehemently pro-NATIVE wildlife. The pythons in Florida are invasive and need to be eradicated because they're significantly disrupting the natural ecosystem.

Also, I'm not anti-cat. In fact, we have three cats that stay indoors 24/7, and we have rescued two from outdoor; so it is possible to convert them to indoor cats.

Cats should always stay indoors.

Why are cats so detrimental to native wildlife? Well, mostly because unlike native predators, cats kill for fun. This is evident by the "gifts" (dead native wildlife) that they often present to you or leave by the door.

Native predators only kill when they need to eat, which is why you'll often find kingsnakes curled up next to other snakes, including venomous ones, and they won't bother each other at all unless the kingsnake needs a meal.

Unlike snakes, cats actually DO carry a nasty bacteria that causes infections, and often death, to any animal they swat or scratch. Ask any native wildlife rehabber and they will tell you that the vast majority of injuries they encounter when rehabbing native wildlife are the result of cats being left outdoors and often despite their best efforts, putting them down is the only option.

Cats cause so much damage to native wildlife that they had to be banned in Australia. In the US alone, cats kill over one billion birds and around six million native small animals each year, leading to multiple entire bird species becoming extinct.

If you like cats and are not concerned that they kill native animals, it's important to note that cats face the danger of predators if outdoors, including cars, humans, birds of prey, dogs, snakes, coyotes, poisons, and diseases, so for their safety, you should want to keep them inside. If you love your pet, keep it indoors.

That being said, like those other species, cats also have rapid reproduction rates. Females can begin breeding at six months old and can breed every four months, so you can see how those populations quickly get out of hand. This allows them to cause more damage than those few predators can protect against.

It's illegal in most places for dogs to roam freely, and it should be the same for cats.

Just in case you were thinking that cats are great rodent control, this is just a myth. Cats are not needed to keep rodent populations in check. We have native predators like snakes, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, and birds of prey to do that job, and they won't kill other native animals for fun.

If you like to see birds, lizards, frogs, insects, butterflies, hummingbirds, chipmunks, rabbits, and other wildlife, then please help do your part to keep the invasive population down, and protect our native ecosystems by keeping your pet cats inside.

As always, please feel free to contact us at www.louisiansnakeid.com if you encounter a snake or have any snake-related questions.

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OP-ED

(FROM PAGE 3)

Ukrainian officials over the past few months to end the war.

These diplomatic moves stand in stark contrast to the utter ineffectiveness of Trump's predecessor, President Joe Biden, and the UN.

Trump is also working on a plan to end the war in Gaza and free the remaining 50 hostages. On Saturday, he sent Witkoff to meet with Qatari Prime Minister Abdulrahman al-Thani in Spain. The goal will be to "present a comprehensive true-hostage deal proposal to Israel and Hamas within the next two weeks."

Due to President Trump's amazing diplomatic achievements, he has received numerous nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize. U.S. Representative Claudia Tenney (R-NY) nominated President Trump for the award in 2024 "for his groundbreaking efforts to foster peace and cooperation between Israel, Bahrain, Morocco, Sudan, and the United Arab Emirates through the Abraham Accords."

On June 24, 2025, the day after President Trump announced a ceasefire between Israel and Iran, U.S. Representative Buddy Carter (R-GA) nominated him. Carter wrote that Trump "took bold action to ultimately champion peace through strength and facilitate a ceasefire framework that brought hostilities to a halt."

Along with the two GOP members of Congress, the leaders of five nations, Cambodia, Pakistan, Israel, Armenia and Azerbaijan, nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize.

As the President Ilham Aliyev of Azerbaijan said at the White House ceremony on Friday, his country was at war with Armenia for "more than three decades." He called the agreement "historic" and said it was the "tangible result of President Trump's leadership."

Aliyev added that other than Trump "no one could have achieved" the agreement, certainly not the UN.

Jeff Crouere is a native New Orleanian and his award-winning program, "Ringside Politics," airs Saturdays from Noon until 1 p.m. CT nationally on Real America's Voice TV Network & AmericasVoice.News and weekdays from 7-9 a.m. & 6-7 p.m. CT on WGSO 990-AM & Wgso.com. He is a political columnist, the author of America's Last Chance, and provides regular commentaries on the Jeff Crouere YouTube channel and at Crouere.net. For more information, email him at jcrouere@gmail.com

FUN FACT

In 1987, 20% of mattress sales were waterbeds, amounting to a $2 billion market.

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Horoscopes

3rd week of August

ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
This week you are unstoppable, Aries. Your confidence will be shining brightly for all to see, and the right people are bound to take notice. Expect to tackle some projects.

TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, small comforts will bring big happiness to you this week. Plus, your natural charm will draw others in. A surprise in your home life will make your heart soar. Enjoy the moments.

GEMINI - May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, your words will be magical this week whether you're pitching ideas or chatting with friends. There's not much you can't say that people will not hear and take to heart.

CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, this week you may be building something meaningful, whether it is in love or work. All of the steps you are currently taking will help establish security and happiness in your life.

LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
Your creativity is on fire right now, Leo. People are drawn to your warmth and charisma. This is a great time to start something new or share a talent with others.

VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Something that felt out of place begins to align perfectly right now, Virgo. You might be tapping into your inner wisdom, and it's guiding you toward some much-needed success.

LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, new connections will be coming your way, meaning that you may have different avenues for social connections. Get out and meet people as much as you can.

SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
Your drive is unmatched right now, Scorpio. Whatever goals you have established you are pushing through faster than would seem possible. Stay focused, but celebrate your progress.

SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Adventure is calling, Sagittarius. You might be planning a trip or diving into a new study subject. This week a fire will be lit and your optimism is contagious.

CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, a breakthrough in your life may be brewing. You are increasingly making smart choices that can offer long-term dividends. Stay open and trust the process.

AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Connections with others are a primary focus for you this week, Aquarius. Whether you are exploring love, friendship or new business opportunities, fresh energy comes into play .

PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
You are in your element this week, Pisces. A creative idea or unexpected kindness makes the week extra special. Focus on some self-care and keep giving off positive vibes.

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Let's Talk Turtles

There may be some confusion about turtles vs. tortoises, but all reptiles with a hard shell attached to their bodies are considered turtles. Some species include box turtles, sea turtles, and terrapins.

Turtles have webbed feet or flippers for swimming, and their shells are streamlined. Tortoises have domed shells and elephant-like legs that allow for long distance walking.

The most common in our area are box turtles, red eared sliders, and alligator snapping turtles. Box turtles are terrestrial, traveling on land, and unfortunately, many are found on the side of the road after being hit by vehicles. Given their small size and slow speed, it's impossible for them to get out of the way, and by the time a driver sees them, it's often too late to try and avoid them.

Red eared sliders are very common in bodies of water, and they are often seen basking on logs at parks or in canals and other bodies of water. They can be easily identified by an oblong patch of red on each side of their head.

Alligator snapping turtles look to me like living fossils. Found in swamps, rivers, canals, lakes, and coastal marshes, they have webbed toes, and an upper jaw with an extremely sharp hooked beak similar to that of a parrot.

Turtles belong to one of the oldest reptile groups in the world and date back to the time of the dinosaurs. A turtle's shell is actually part of its skeleton, so contrary to popular belief, they aren't capable of walking out of their shell. Their shell grows with them, so it's impossible for them to outgrow their shells.

People who find injured turtles on the side of the road may not be aware that we have rehabbers who specialize in reptiles. If you find an injured turtle, please always reach out to your local wildlife rehabilitator for help. Many turtles with severe injuries to their shells can be successfully rehabilitated.

It's very important to wash your hands after handing turtles because they can carry salmonella in their intestinal tract.

Many people find box turtles in their backyards and post them online in local lost & found pet groups, believing they are escaped pets. Box turtles are part of our native wildlife, and they prefer to spend their time buried in leaves, dirt or fallen logs.

Some people like to take them from the wild and keep them as pets, which is unfair to a living creature enjoying life to the fullest as part of our amazing fauna and flora, only to be stuck in a tiny box for the rest of its life. Let's enjoy observing them, learning about them, and teaching our children to respect all wildlife.

People often find turtles crossing the road and stop to help. I am no exception, and our publisher, Bobby, is convinced that this will be his cause of death! We know that your intentions are pure, but please always make sure to put your own safety first, above all else.

If you stop to rescue an ill-fated turtle in the road, it's important to always carry them towards the side they were facing. If you reverse their direction and take them to where they just came from, they will attempt to cross that road again to get to where they were going. They are determined to cross the road, like the proverbial chicken!

There have been instances where someone found a box turtle and thought it was an aquatic turtle and threw the turtle into a canal or other body of water. This will result in them drowning (dying), so please make sure to seek help if unsure of species. Not all turtles swim!

Side note: Did a turtle pee on you? Often, when a turtle is being picked up, they will empty their bladder out of fear. This is a normal and involuntary reaction, so please make sure to hold them away from the body and wash your hands immediately after. Remember – as cute and as friendly as they are, they can carry disease.